(2) They considered the present appointment more desirable.

(3) Vide answer to (2) above.

Mr. C. V. Antony's acting appointment.

638. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council:—

(1) (a) will the Government be pleased to say whether the minimum pay of the Excise Superintendent is Rs. 425;

(b) if it is Rs. 425, why the Government did not think it necessary to appoint as Excise Superintendent an officer on the minimum pay instead of taking away a Senior District Judge and giving him the maximum pay of the post, viz., Rs. 750;

(2) (a) is not the Government aware that the scale proposed by the Special Finance Committee for the Excise Superintendent is Rs. 400—600;

(b) is not the Government also aware that at the Special Session of the Legislative Council held in Kanni last a resolution was passed by the Council fixing the pay of Heads of Departments including the Excise Superintendent also at Rs. 400—600;

(c) if so, what was the special urgency, especially when the above proposals are before the Government for orders, to appoint an officer as Excise Superintendent on the maximum pay of Rs. 750;

(3) (a) is not the Government aware that Mr. U. Kandar Menon, one of the senior practitioners of the Bar, as he then was, has acted as Senior District and Sessions Judge when Mr. C. V. Antony was appointed as an acting Puisne Judge of the Chief Court;

(b) is not the Government also aware that he proved himself to be an able District Judge and that his appointment gave entire satisfaction to the litigant public and the legal profession;

(4) will the Government be pleased to inform the Council why he was not selected for the present vacancy but was shunted on to a different Department altogether;

(5) will the Government be pleased to say whether they thought of the desirability of appointing a practising vakil as District and Sessions Judge or at least an Additional District Judge or District Magistrate or District Munsiff in connection with the above-said arrangements; is not the Government aware that they have been repeatedly assuring the Bar that the claims of the competent members of the Bar to all grades of appointments

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in the judicial line will be adequately considered and are considered also as vacancies occur; if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to say why the claims of the Bar, if any, were ignored?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(1) (a) Yes.

(b) None so competent as Mr. Antony could be found for the place.

(2) (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The Government considered that there was no sufficient ground to delay the appointment.

(3) (a) Yes.

(b) There was no occasion to make an enquiry into the matter.

(4) The Government considered that he would worthily fill the place of the Secretary to the Diwan.

(5) The claims of the Bar have not been ignored.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Is this the way in which the Government is watching the performances of the officers appointed by them?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—There was nothing against him. Government did not inquire.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—What is the opinion of the public? They are only concerned with the opinion of the officers who are to look after their work, that is, the Chief Court.

President.—Is there anything wrong in the performances of the Government?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Before re-appointing him, was not the effect of this performance of the previous occasion ascertained?

President.—Your point is, he should have been appointed as District Judge.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I have no complaint whether he is appointed one way or the other. If a man is appointed in a particular place and he has given satisfaction before, why should he be taken away from that place?

President.—He was wanted for the Secretary's place.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon's appointment as Secretary.

639. **Mr. P. Krishna Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council:—

(1) what was the urgent necessity of transplanting Mr. Kandar Menon as Secretary to the Diwan and the present Secretary, Mr. Vengu Ayyar, as Devaswam Commissioner;

(2) (a) is it a fact that Mr. K. Kochunni Menon, the acting Devaswam Commissioner, now appointed as Registration Superintendent, is to retire on the 25th Kumbham;

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